SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Social Science
Revision Date: 07-01-25

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number:	POLS1000
Course Title:	American Government
Prerequisite(s):	None
Description:	A study of the functioning of the American political and governmental systems through an analysis and application of its underlying theories.
Credit Hours:	3.0
Class Hours:	45
Lab Hours:	0
Total Contact Hours:	45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

A. Acquaint the students with the key values and concepts including power, democracy, ideology and political change.
B. Heighten student awareness of the origins and operations of the Constitution and federalism.
C. Enhance student understanding of the three branches of the federal government and their interrelationships.
D. Develop student appreciation of civil rights and civil liberties in American politics.
E. Introduce the decision-making process, governmental operations, as well as the role of bureaucracy – including domestic and/or foreign policy.
F. Develop student knowledge of various forms of political activity including: campaigns, elections, political parties and interest groups.
G. Have students analyze the sources and impact of public opinion, including the role of the media.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
- **1.** Distinguish the key values and concepts including power, democracy, ideology and political change.
- **2.** Describe the origins and operations of the Constitution and federalism.
- **3.** Analyze the three branches of the federal government and their interrelationships.
- **4.** Understand and differentiate the role of civil rights and civil liberties in American politics.
- **5.** Analyze the decision-making process, governmental operations, and the role of bureaucracy in domestic and foreign policy.
- **6.** Synthesize various forms of political activity including: campaigns, elections, political parties and interest groups.
- **7.** Examine the sources and impact of public opinion, including the role of the media.

B. General Education Learning Outcomes
- **1.** GELO #3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
  - Outcome: Collect, identify, interpret and analyze data.
  - Outcome: Synthesize information to arrive at reasoned solutions to problems.
  - Outcome: Evaluate ideas presented in writing, medial, speech, or artistic presentations.
  - Outcome: Evaluate the validity of arguments, alternatives, data, outcomes, and/or impacts of actions.
  - Outcome: Acquire and integrate knowledge and construct relationships across disciplines.

2. GELO #4: Global Awareness and Citizenship

Outcome: Demonstrate awareness and knowledge of U.S. history and culture as it relates to race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and culture.

Outcome: Explain the connections between historical and recent events and current global situations related to political systems, economic systems, social systems, and /or environmental issues.

Outcome: Function effectively in multicultural settings.

Outcome: Discuss issues from a global perspective.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE *(course outline may provide more detailed information)*

A. Foundations of American Government

B. Institutions of American Government

C. Public policy making

D. Political participation and the role of media

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. Required Text(s):

1. O'Connor, Karen, Larry J. Sabato. *Revel for American Government*, 13th Ed., Pearson, 2018. ISBN: 9780134649375. (New editions updated frequently online; check bookstore website.)

Material provided in class through Canvas (look for email) – Account will be charged.

B. Other required readings will vary from quarter to quarter, and may include short monographs, autobiographical memoirs, scholarly articles, and other primary or secondary sources related to various aspects of recent World History. These will be supplied by the instructor unless otherwise specified in the syllabus.

C. Student purchase of examination books ("blue books") may be required for exams.

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

A. Methods of presentation typically include a combination of the following:

1. Lectures

2. Class Discussion

3. Individual/Group Projects

4. Video Clips

5. Student Presentations

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of the following:

1. Written examinations

2. Quizzes

3. Research papers

4. Book reviews

5. Short papers based on readings

6. Class discussions

7. Student Presentations (Group and/or Individual)

8. Other interactive activities

9. Attendance

B. Specific weighting of these assessment modalities is detailed in the course policies. The instructor may also require other types of graded work, as long as it is not inconsistent with the parameters defined in the "Methods of Evaluation" section.

C. SCC GRADING SCALE

A+	95-100	C+	75-79	F	59 or less

A	90-94	C	70-74
B+	85-89	D+	65-69
B	80-84	D	60-64

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. In order to receive a passing grade in the course, students must complete the work assigned by the instructor in a satisfactory manner.

B. Regular attendance, reading, examinations, writing assignments, discussion and respectful behavior are all required course components.

C. It is important for students to check requirements at the transfer institution they plan to attend.